

REMARKS

1. Status of the Claims

Claims 39-84 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action dated September 23, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 39-48, 51-54, and 57-64 as being anticipated by *Henneberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,243). The Examiner further rejected claim 55 as being unpatentable over *Henneberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,243) in view of *Gute* (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,083). The Examiner also indicated claims 49, 50, and 56 as containing allowable subject matter. Claims 65-84 have been added with this response and are directed to the release mechanism of the coupler of the present application.

2. Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Robert McCann, during their personal interview on January 27, 2005. During the interview, the differences between the claimed invention and the coupler disclosed in *Henneberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,243) were discussed.

3. The Henneberger Reference

The Examiner rejected claims 39-48, 51-54, and 57-64 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by *Henneberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,243), and the Examiner further rejected claim 55 as being unpatentable over *Henneberger* (U.S. Patent No. 5,316,243) in

view of *Gute* (U.S. Patent No. 5,338,083). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claims 39 and 47 as amended require a release mechanism for releasing the locking mechanism from retaining a cable duct section positioned in a duct-receiving portion of the coupler. Similarly, independent claims 48 and 57 as amended require a release mechanism for releasing the locking mechanism from retaining a cable duct section in engagement with a first side of the coupler. The *Henneberger* reference completely lacks a separate release mechanism for releasing its locking mechanism 61. Consequently, *Henneberger* does not anticipate or obviate, either alone or in combination with another reference, independent claims 39, 47, 48, and 57, or any claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of these claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe the present claims to be in condition for allowance, and earnestly request early notification of the same. If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the Application on the basis of these amendments and feels that a telephone conference would help clear up any unresolved matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 28, 2005

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